— facilitating through bilateral consultations, the rapid utilisation of debt owed to Russia, in the form of exports of goods; a separate agreement on long-term purchase of specific goods has been signed.

— promotion of direct business contacts through exchange of delegations, holding of exhibitions, participation in fairs, buyer-seller meets etc.

— encouragement of initiatives to ensure that infra-structure is quickly created for trade in areas such as banking, warehousing and transportation (through the Russian Black Sea Port of Novorossisk).

(c) and (d) During the meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation under the aegis of Indo-Russian Joint Commission held in Moscow in July, 1994, it was decided to have a long term perspective plan for purchase of certain items such as tea, tabacco, soyabean meals and pharmaceuticals. As a follow-up, an agreement has been signed between the two sides in December, 1994 during Russian Prime Minister's visit for annual purchase in India by Russia of the following commodities under the Debt Repayment Route during the period 1995—97 :—

1. Tobacco	20,000 MTs.
2. Tea	30,000 MTs.
3. Soyabean meal	1,00,000 MTs.
4. Pharmaceuticals Valued at US $	100 MT.

Complaints regarding quality of Exported Marine Products

7621. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that the complaints regarding quality of marine producs exported have increased;

(b) if so the steps taken to maintain the quality and reduce the rejection of exported marine products; and

(c) whether the quality control will be introduced to protect market of Indian marine products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) With increase in marine products exports and diversification of markets and products, there has been a marginal increase in quality complaints.

(b) Some initiatives taken for better quality maintenance inter-alia include :—

(i) Advising exporters and their associations on the requtrements of quality and hygenic stipulations laid down by the main importing countrtes.

(ii) Introduction of a subsidy scheme to assist processors in establishing captive peeling sheds.

(iii) Financial Assistance to preprocessors in obtaining stainless steel tables used for peeling activities.

(iv) Carrying out a suvey along with Export Inspection Council of all processing units and informig them of the requisite steps for maintaining quality control.

(v) Informing health and inspection authorities in Foreign countries of measures being taken tn India to ensure quality including inviting officials from major markets to visit processtng units in India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

India's Share in the International Coffee Market

7622. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minster of COMMERCE be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that India accounts for less than three per cent of world trade in coffee;

(b) whether the production of coffee in India has declined from 2,12,000 tonnes in 1993-94 to 1,80,100 tonnes in 1994-95 and if so, how the export target of